

New Mills Primary School
Newsletter No. 3
Friday 21st October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has been very productive and a lot of changes have been made. The website is being renewed, we have the template, we just need to develop it further. When it is ready, we will share the new curriculum. In the meantime, here are some headlines: Our curriculum has changed - we have invested in an aspirational curriculum for all our children. Curriculum Maestro supports most of our planning, this is supported by Language Angels for teaching French in KS2, Jigsaw for RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education) and Charanga for music. For children who may need additional support, or for those who need to fill some learning gaps, we have purchased Dyslexia Gold (which isn't just for children with dyslexia), 123 maths, Fresh Start for reading in KS2 and many other resources. Our KS2 spelling programme starts after half term, it builds on the RWI programme in KS1. We've really thought about the curriculum and intend to make it as exciting and engaging as we can. You'll be aware that Home Learning has changed, too. Home Learning shouldn't be a chore and it shouldn't consume weekends and evenings. If this is the case, please speak to your child's teacher.

Alongside these changes, we have bought Reading Plus - a reading programme for KS2 children. Guided reading sessions have been introduced. We have been working very hard on handwriting (hopefully, you saw some lovely writing during parent's evening) and we've been working closely with literacy consultants who are transforming the teaching and learning.

It will take time to securely embed all these changes - we've got off to a great start - staff have worked extremely hard to put the changes in place and the children are already reaping the benefits.

Carol Taylor - Head teacher

3 x new Governor roles:

We currently have 3 vacancies for 3 governor roles in school. This is an opportunity for someone who is passionate about New Mills Primary to help shape its direction. This following statement summarises the role:

The purpose of governing bodies is to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school'. Governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core functions: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.

Governors support the Headteacher to make the big decisions! The information has been sent out on class dojo. Any more information, please email Mrs Taylor ☺

School policy - Exceptional circumstances applications:

(Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively.

Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made.

You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996.

Kingswood & Lea Green:

Y5 will be going to Kingswood straight after half term on Monday 31st October & Y6 will be going to Lea Green on Monday 7th November. We all look forward to seeing the photos of their adventures on Class dojo! ☺

Harvest festival & Helping Hands foodbank New Mills:

WOW is all we can say! BIG Thank you to everyone who donated food on the Harvest festival day. At least 7 large boxes of food were collected by Helping Hands foodbank. ☺

Forest School sessions:

Every child gets to learn in our Woodland area. Sue Fisher has worked extremely hard to make this an incredible learning space. Parents are being invited to join us for sessions so that you can also enjoy what we've been doing and share a hot chocolate with us!!

Skip:

The skip has been filled and the school site is much clearer now. Thank you to one of our grandparents who supported us with this. Your help was hugely appreciated ☺

Opera - Tutankhamuns Shoes KS2

Last year, children (and staff) were amazed by the opera singers and the story they told. We've booked them in again on Thursday 3rd November. We are all looking forward to seeing them again the first week back.

Playgroup support:

The following message has been sent by Claire, who is keen to set up the play group again.

We need your help! The school would love to welcome back the baby and toddler group on a Friday morning (9-11am) but we are unable to do so at present as we have no volunteers to help run the sessions. We need at least 2-3 people to help and support will be given initially. Please contact Claire on clairebeadman@hotmail.com ASAP if you are able to help.

The playgroup was very successful, and it gave parents with young children the opportunity to meet in a safe space. During Covid many families became isolated, being with others is a great way to start putting Covid behind us and allow us to move on. Please pass the message on to parents with younger children.

Class Dojo: IMPORTANT

Since its introduction, Class Dojo has been very successful. The next step is to move away from the texting service completely and use two communication platforms: email and Class Dojo. We are hoping to complete this change in the next couple of months.

Please make sure you are signed up to Class dojo and have notifications allowed so that you receive regular messages. Emails will be sent if documents or other sensitive information needs to be shared. Please get in touch if you have any thoughts or comments about the changes to communication: ctaylor@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk (or contact me on Dojo)

PTA News

Clothing for recycling:

The big, green clothing bank is on site, please use it for all your unwanted clothing items (not uniform), shoes, blankets, duvet covers etc. All must be clean! This is emptied on a monthly basis and all proceeds go towards supporting the school with trips.

Disco:

Thank you to everyone who attended the disco. The total raised for the school is £253.00. This will go towards supporting the trips in school.

Autumn/Bonfire night bake off:

Thursday 3 November - decorate 4 cakes/biscuits for judging for KS1 & KS2, No entry fee but please bring change for after school bake sale!

Christmas fair - Ho, Ho, Ho!

If you have any good as new or new items you would like to donate to the school for their raffle at the Christmas fair, all donations would be gratefully received. We will also be having 2 non-uniform days for bottles & chocolate (dates tbc soon).

Dates for your Diary October onwards Something to look forward to:

Monday 31 st October - Wednesday 2 nd November	Y5 Kingswood trip
Thursday 3 rd November	PTA Bake off & cake sale (info has been emailed home) see above
Thursday 3 rd November	English touring opera in school
Monday 7 th November - Thursday 10 th November	Y6 Lea Green trip
Wednesday 9 th November	Y3 Stone age workshop in school
Thursday 10 th November	NHS flu immunisations in school (info has been emailed)
Monday 14 th November	Y4 Viking workshop in school
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need day (more info to follow)
Wednesday 30 th November	Y6 trip to Liverpool Museums
Thursday 1 st December	NHS flu immunisations for Y6 (due to residential trip)
Friday 2 nd December	Christmas Fair 3.15 pm.

More info to follow on KS1 Christmas play dates.

